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and so arranged that its contents may be made available with the least labor or confusion.

This volume exhibits the same defects as all the late State Reports, where every case is required to be reported; it is crowded with an infinite number of useless cases, and by consequence the important cases are far too briefly discussed, and the arguments of counsel almost entirely excluded. The attempt, too, at simplifying pleadings, by means of codes of practice, makes more controversy than it saves.

There are some cases in this volume which do not seem to admit of any question; as for instance, whether a licensed vender of spirituous liquors can carry on his business through the instrumentality of an agent: *Pickens vs. State*, p. 116. And some others, which are decided contrary to what we had supposed the law to be: as in *Roy vs. McMurtry*, p. 307—that where the maker of a promissory note is inquired of by a person who had already purchased the note, as to its validity, and he answers that it is all right, and that he will pay it, and agrees to pay ten *per cent.* interest for an indefinite delay of payment, to which the holder of the note assents, by waiting until his assignor becomes insolvent, such facts will not estop the maker from defending against an action upon the note on the ground of a failure of the consideration! But the question of estoppel in pais is one of great uncertainty; but if any case is clear from all doubt, we should have supposed this was.

I. F. R.

THE PRACTICE IN PROCEEDINGS IN THE PROBATE COURTS, &c., &c. With an Appendix of Practical Forms; designed for the use of Executors and others having business in the Probate Court. By WILLIAM L. SMITH, Counsellor at Law. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1863.

We have received this compend of probate law and practice, of 365 pages, 12mo., which appears to us a very useful and convenient book for such persons as it is designed to aid—those who have occasion to transact business in the probate courts, but are not educated to the profession. And it is certainly a useful book even to professional men.

I. F. R.

REPORTS OF CASES DETERMINED IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, at April and November Terms, 1862, and January Term, 1863. By E. PECK, Counsellor at Law. Vol. XXIX. Chicago: E. B. Myers, 1863.

This volume of Mr. Peck's reports contains an unusual number and proportion of valuable cases; cases where the questions involved are important and difficult, and where they have been elaborately considered by the court and the counsel, and where the briefs of counsel are given at